[Sri C. Rajagopalachari] [12th May 1952

distinguished President of the Legislative Council and a member of the Legislature for many years, and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family '."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf I associate myself wholeheartedly with all the words said by the Hon. Chief Minister. Dr. Rama Rao had been one of the most outstanding figures in the public life of this city. He was not merely a leading doctor, but he was one of the most popular doctors. When I first came to Madras as a student the first doctor's name I heard was the name of Dr. Rama Rao, because he was the most easily accessible doctor not only to the rich but to the poor, and particularly to the student population. He was very generous-hearted and broad-minded. He had the satisfaction of seeing, before he expired in ripe old age, one of his sons occupy a Minister's post in this important State of Madras. It is good that he expired without any pain or suffering. It is the kind of death all must aspire for after living to a good old age. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Chief Minister in moving the resolution."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I associate the Chair with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. I knew well Dr. Rama Rao; he was a very popular doctor and he had a roaring practice. He was a Member of the Legislative Council for some time, and as President of the Legislative Council he maintained its prestige and dignity."

The resolution reads as follows :—

' This Assembly places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Dr. U. Rama Rao, a former distinguished President of the Legislative Council and a Member of the Legislature for many years, and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. '

As a mark of respect to the deceased, I request hon. Members to stand in their places for two minutes, and pass the resolution.

" The resolution was passed unanimously, the hon. Members standing in silence for two minutes."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Famine conditions in Karur and other taluks in Tiruchirappalli district.

* 1 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether—

(*a*) any representations have been made to the Government by the local officials and public bodies regarding famine conditions prevailing in some parts of Karur, Kulittalai and Perambalur taluks of Tiruchirappalli district; and

(*b*) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to give immediate relief to the people in this area?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Yes. In April the Collector of Tiruchirappalli reported that Karur, Kulittalai and Perambalur taluks of Tiruchirappalli district were affected to some extent due to the failure of the north-east monsoon.

" (b) The conditions in the three taluks referred to by the hon. Member are not such as to warrant immediate relief. The Collector has however chalked out a programme of works including formation of roads and deepening of drinking water wells for execution at short notice in case of emergency."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, is the execution of such relief works undertaken by the Government officials directly and the wages paid to the workers by the Government officials themselves, or is it given over to contractors, who execute them and pay wages to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Usually it is given to contractors, who execute these works. Now Collectors have been given ample discretion to execute these works departmentally in view of the emergency."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, in view of the answer to clause (a) namely, that representations have been received by the Government from the district that famine conditions are prevailing, may I know on what basis Government came to the conclusion that the conditions are not so bad? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Probably certain conditions that pervail in the famine-affected areas like Rayalaseema do prevail here also. There are probably symptoms of famine in certain parts of Tiruchirappalli district. To meet such cases the District Collector has schemes on hand and he will put them into execution the moment the emergency demands it."

SRI K. VINAYAGAM :—" Sir, may I inquire whether similar representations have been made by the local officials of Chingleput regarding the prevalence of famine conditions in that district? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, I would like to know what the Hon. Minister means when he says that certain conditions prevailing in Rayalaseema districts prevail in Tiruchirappalli district also and yet immediate relief is unnecessary. I would like to know why he feels that these areas do not require immediate relief."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Which areas? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Kulittalai, Karur and Perambalur."

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The situation in the areas referred to is not probably so acute as to warrant the immediate implementation of the relief measures that the Government contemplate."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister says, that the conditions there probably are not serious. May I know whether any information has been received about the conditions there now? May I know what is the extent or kind of famine condition that would satisfy the Government to take immediate action? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Anticipating that the situation may worsen, the Collector has got schemes ready. The moment local officers report that it is necessary to start famine relief works, the Collector will implement his scheme."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Is it not a fact that the Government ordered remission of kist in Pudukkottai thinking there is famine condition there, and so may I know why no famine relief work has been taken up there? "

THE HON SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Notice."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that famine conditions exist in this particular area and also in some other parts of Tamil Nad, but the attention of the Government has not been drawn to it because of lack of publicity as in the case of Rayalaseema, will the Government come forward and make a proper enquiry into the conditions prevailing in these areas? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" In which areas? The hon. Member should confine himself to the areas mentioned in the question."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" I mean Karur, Kulittalai and Perambalur taluks. Will Government come forward and make a proper inquiry to find out whether famine conditions prevail there? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" While Government do their part of the business I wish hon. Members also do their part by bringing to the notice of Government the condition of affairs in the districts."

11-15 a.m. SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it will be possible to place the reports of the Collector of the district on the table of the House? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister replied in answer to a supplementary question that he was leaving it entirely to the discretion of the local officials to decide whether famine conditions prevailed or not. May I know in that connexion whether it is the policy of the Government to leave it entirely to local officials? "

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— "Local officials are given a certain amount of discretion and it is controlled by the Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that the attendance in elementary schools has fallen very low in these famine areas? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know whether the works that are being carried out are going to be given to contractors or will the Government themselves be taking responsibility for them? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am afraid I have already answered that question."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" May I know, Sir, who is to decide whether there is famine or not? Is it the Government or the local officer? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am afraid I have already answered that question. Both the local officers and the Government."

SRI E. L. RAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of executing these famine relief works departmentally? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have already told the House that it is also being done."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government think of appointing some non-official committees. whose opinions also may be taken into account on this question? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not think the hon. Member wants to prolong the execution of the works; if that is his idea, I think the suggestion will be good but the Government want to hurry up with the work and bring immediate relief to the people."

Promulgation of orders under section 144 in Madras City.

* 2 *Q.*—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :— Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that orders under section 144 were promulgated in some parts of the City of Madras on the 6th of May 1952, and if so, why; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the police authorities have arrested nine persons and caused injuries to many due to a lathi charge?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) It is a fact that orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, were